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OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF NICARAGUA'S POLITICAL PARTIES AND GRASS ROOTS
ORGANIZATIONS BELONGING TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE
(NICARAGUAN NATIONAL LEGISLATURE)

The Reagan Administration is attempting to deceive the American people regarding Nicaragua. While repeatedly refusing to meet with Nicaraguan government representatives and have a frank exchange of views, President Reagan, Secretary of State Shultz and other spokesmen do no more than level accusation after accusation against Nicaragua, without any basis.

The Reagan Administration not only refuses to negotiate with Nicaragua, but, on the contrary, has initiated the first U.S. military involvement since the Vietnam war, committing federal funds notwithstanding the express stipulations of Congress, and financing and arming thousands of mercenary soldiers of the former army of dictator Anastasio Somoza, who have invaded Nicaragua from Honduras and, just as in the past, are committing all kinds of crimes with the weapons supplied by the Reagan Administration. They have savagely murdered teachers, farm workers, miners, and construction workers. Children have been killed and mutilated by mortar fire. Peasants have had their throats slit, and entire families have been kidnapped.

The Administration, by these reckless and dangerous actions is introducing serious elements of instability in a region geographically close to the United States and endangering the peace for Central American countries. Its only pretext is that Nicaragua, a small and poor country, represents a danger to the United States.

The Administration obscures from the American people that Nicaragua is a non-aligned nation that has no military alliances with any other power, that belongs to the Organization of American States and is a signatory of the Rio Treaty for Continental Defense. The Administration also uses as a

pretext purported traffic of arms to El Salvador from Nicaraguan territory. But hundreds of flights over Nicaragua by U.S. AWACS, U-2 and RC-135 planes have been made for a long time now. Ships with electronic equipment monitor our coasts. But never have they been able to produce a single shred of evidence. Nicaragua has asked the Administration to supply such proof but it has never been produced. Clearly, that is because it has no such proof.

Because these false accusations have not been effective for the Administration, it created a new one: that Nicaragua has agreed to install Soviet missiles in its territory. With this falsehood, the Administration is trying to confuse people and legitimize its aggressive and dangerous policy toward Nicaragua.

The people of the United States can rely upon the people of Nicaragua and their government. Nicaragua's leaders are young and honest, and they are dedicated to create better conditions of health, education and housing in an impoverished country that wants to end backwardness and misery.

Nicaragua cannot be a danger to the United States. That is absurd. What is dangerous for the United States is that its government is executing such a misguided policy toward a neighboring country.

When Nicaragua needed wheat and cooking oil, after the war that put an end to the Somoza dictatorship, the Reagan Administration cut off all food credits. It cut off all its loans to Nicaragua and, in addition, is obstructing the efforts that Nicaragua is making to obtain loans from American banks, with which Nicaragua faithfully renegotiated its foreign debt.

The Administration confiscated helicopters that Nicaragua purchased in the United

States and denied us any kind of military assistance.

The Administration sponsors a mercenary invasion, financed behind Congress' back, cuts all economic assistance and tries to isolate us. How could it make sense to commit the great military and economic power of the United States to such unjust acts against a country that has not committed any aggression against your country? Later, with planes that have no markings, the Administration will try to bomb economic targets, bridges, refineries, power stations. This is what must be stopped. Later, the Administration will involve the Honduran army in hostile actions against Nicaragua and try to blockade our ports. This also must be prevented because after that the Administration will send the young Americans of its armed forces to invade Nicaragua and again there will be grief and mourning in American homes.

Nicaragua wants peace, and an understanding with the government of the United States that is fair, honorable and equitable. Nicaragua wants to have permanent relations with the United States: diplomatic, political, economic and commercial. It is the Reagan Administration that does not want these relations. It is up to the American people and their representatives in the Congress to speak now, and to insist that this situation change, and that it change immediately.

We are not enemies of the United States. Why, then, has the Reagan Administration launched an undeclared war against Nicaragua? That war must end and it is for the American people and their representatives in the Congress to insist that it be ended.

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